A poem that makes us feel sympathy for a person is “Brooklyn Cop” by Norman MacCaig. It is a poem about a cop who has to deal with a lot of violence every day. He is portrayed in such a way that the reader feels great sympathy for him because he isn’t a stereotype, he has feelings and hopes.  
  
  
MacCaig’s use of characterisation is used effectively throughout the poem to create sympathy for the Cop.   
‘who’s home is a place ,  
he might this time never get back to?’  
  
This conveys the idea he is human and has human emotions. It also shows the reader that the ‘Cop’ might get killed whilst doing his job. This creates sympathetic feeling towards the character because the police man is realistic by having two sides to himself: he’s vicious and violent but on the other hand he is caring and loving by calling his wife ‘honey’.   
  
The writer uses imagery to allow the reader to feel sympathy for the “cop”.Norman MacCaig describes the streets that “Brooklyn cop” is set in as fragile because there is a “ thin tissue over violence” seperating him from potential death. This indicates that the police officer is vulnerable to violence and that at any moment he could be extremely hurt. This is an excellent use of imagery as it allows you to imagine how small the line between safety and violence and how devastating it could be. Whilst at work he is fearless and savage, but he loves his wife at home and is afraid he could be killed in the line of fire when he said   
“see you babe to his wife he hoped it he truly hoped it”  
this makes us feel sorry for him because of the love for his wife which means he is vulnerable.   
  
  
Norman MacCaig’s setting is used effectively and conveys the theme of sympathy and pity throughout the poem:  
  
“what clubbings, what gunshots between Phoebe’s Whamburger and Louie’s Place”  
  
This quotation shows that MacCaig is creating sympathy for the Booklyn Cop through setting. This makes you feel sympathy because the Brooklyn Cop has to go through dangerous parts of the city that could be life changing for his wife. One of these ‘gunshots’ could kill him and make his wife a widow. The setting of ‘Phoebe’s Whamburger and Louie’s place’ is where the mafia might meet. This may be dangerous for the Brooklyn Cop as their objective would be to get him out of the area as they might make a deal.  
  
The cop’s feelings are clearly shown through word choice. We can tell this because we are told “ hiya honey is no cliché”. This shows how much he loves his wife and wants to get back to her at the end of everyday. This shows sympathy because we want him to stay an not make his wife a widow.  
Also in stanza 3 we are told “should he plunge through into violence”. This shows that he leaves home and straight away he is fighting crime and risking his life to help other people.  
  
Through detailed analysis of "Brooklyn Cop" the reader is able to break through typical streotypes of American "cops" and begin to develop an understanding of what their lives are really like. McCaig's detailed characterisation allows the reader to see that he is more than just a one dimentional character but a real person with many sides, a home and someone he loves waiting for him.

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